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3-26-1993

# Could Angels Be Blessed

Nancy Kiefer

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### Recommended Citation

Kiefer, Nancy, "Could Angels Be Blessed" (1993). *Theatre Productions*. 20.  
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# COULD ANGELS BE BLESSED

by Nancy Kiefer



*My dearest Father*  
*I have not been able to stop*  
*thinking about you since I*  
*lost your voice. I miss you*  
*you are always on my mind*  
*no matter what I am doing*  
*what I'm doing at night*  
*I was sitting on the floor*  
*and looking up at the ceiling*  
*and I could think of nothing*  
*else but you. I was crying*  
*as I wrote this. I was*  
*in a dark room. I was*  
*alone. I was alone except*

**A JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS  
PRESENTATION**

**KULAS AUDITORIUM • MAR. 26-27 APR. 2-3 • 8 P.M.**

*...and I know, this will always  
be the city of our love.*

**JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY**

*Department of Communications*

*presents*

**Nancy Kiefer's**

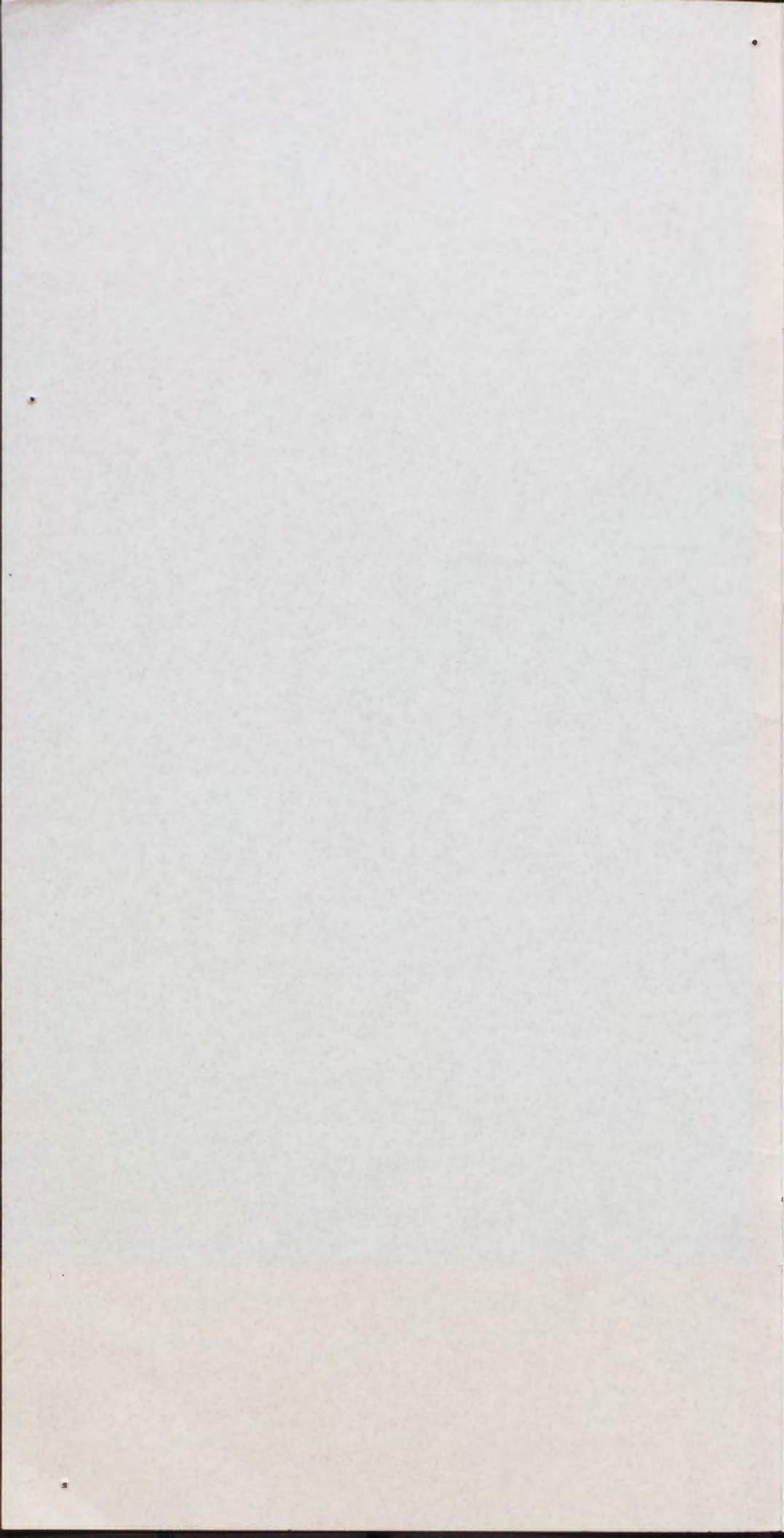
**COULD  
ANGELS  
BE  
BLESSED**

*directed by*

**James F. Beck**

**March 25, 26, April 2, 3, 1993  
Kulas Auditorium**





## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

*Could Angels Be Blessed* marks the second of Nancy Kiefer's plays I've had the pleasure of working on, the first being *The Eighth Order* which premiered in the Marinello Little Theatre in 1991, directed by Dr. Karen Gygli. From the first time I read this script I knew I wanted to produce it. She has created a warm wonderful story while making broad and insightful social observations. Nancy has a keen ability to create vivid poetic imagery while at the same time catching you up in the story and the issues behind it. I find with all of her plays the characters become very endearing and, before you know it, you're caught in their social struggles.

In writing *Could Angels Be Blessed* I feel Nancy has created some extremely unique characters. These personae represent the attitudes, beliefs and values of not only the 1940's, but also those inherent in today's society.

In many ways I feel this is a very contemporary play. It contains contemporary social issues such as the role of women in society, family values, tolerance, understanding and homosexuality. Many will read or see this play and call it a "gay" play. While I believe this is the central focus of the play, labeling it "only a gay play" unfortunately ignores the greater body of the work which paints a picture of how several very different people co-exist in a tight community. Metaphorically, I believe this neighborhood, set on the west side of Cleveland in 1945, its inhabitants and its visitors, are representative of our shrinking global community. As technology increases, the size of our world gets smaller and smaller. We are constantly being exposed to nations, people, values, customs and lifestyles that are vastly different from our own. There is a great need, if we are to avoid the mistakes history has shown us, to communicate and understand, to accept without judgement, all the various people with whom we shall come into contact, whatever our differences and to allow them "just to be who (they are)." In a world that is quickly becoming a community, we can benefit greatly from relying on the biblical tome, "Judge not, lest ye be judged." This is a play about co-existence and acceptance of differences and, of course, love.

Finally, I must take this opportunity to thank Nancy Kiefer for allowing us to stage *Could Angels Be Blessed*. In doing so, she was forced to withdraw it from its position as finalist in several national playwriting competitions. It has been a pleasure working with her as a director, designer and faculty colleague.

I hope you will enjoy the show.

James F. Beck  
Director



# CAST

(in order of appearance)

Lucy Clifford.....	<b>Jennifer V. Wagner*</b>
Lottie Dugan.....	<b>Sarah Morton</b>
Caroline Clifford.....	<b>Dianne Millstein</b>
Polly Raleigh.....	<b>Lisa Cocchiarale</b>
Marlene Raleigh.....	<b>Carrie Lichtman</b>
Domenic Cozza.....	<b>Andrew Zucca*</b>

# SETTING

The adjoining backyards of the Raleigh, Clifford, and Dugan houses on the west side of Cleveland in the summer of 1945.

## Act I

Scene I- Shortly before dawn.

Scene II- Later that same day.

## Act II

Scene I- The next morning.

Scene II- Later that same day.

Scene III- The next day shortly before dawn.

There will be one fifteen minute intermission.

COULD ANGELS BE BLESSED is the third part of a trilogy of plays about World War II. Prior to its world premiere production, the play was a finalist in several national playwriting competitions, including the Shiras Institute/Panowski Competition at Northern Michigan University and the Dayton Playhouse. It was first produced in November of 1992 in New York City by the American Theatre of Actors at the Beckmann Theatre.

# WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

**Lisa Cocchiarale** (Polly Raleigh) is happy to be back on the JCU stage. She was seen most recently in Harvey Fiersteins's *On Tidy Endings*, and as Pauline Steele in the 1991 premiere of Nancy Kiefer's *The Eighth Order*. In those hours between rehearsal and sleep, Lisa can be seen as a graduate student in JCU's English Department. She lives in University Heights with her husband, Michael.

**Carrie Lichtman** (Marlene Raleigh) a sophomore, is proud to call *Could Angels Be Blessed* her first play at John Carroll. A Communications major, she has been actively involved in the arts since high school. In her spare time, Carrie sings in a semi-professional band and is a Varsity cheerleader for John Carroll. Carrie hopes to pursue a career in the entertainment field after graduation.

**Dianne Millstein** (Caroline Clifford) has appeared in several local television commercials. Their success encouraged her return to the stage. Though she is forty, she feels her age adds a positive dimension to her current pursuit of a degree in Communications.

**Sarah Morton** (Lottie Dugan) is a graduate student in the English Department. During her undergraduate days at Johns Hopkins, she produced, directed, wrote, and acted for the theatre. Her favorite roles include Rosalind in *As You Like It*, Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Clelia in *The Nerd*, and Ruth in *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds*.

**Jennifer Wagner** (Lucy Clifford) is performing in her fifth play on the John Carroll Stage. Previous performances include *The Crucible* as Elizabeth, *Baby*, *The Diviners* as Jennie Mae, and *Ten Little Indians* as Vera Claythorne. She is currently a double major in English and Classical Languages. She hopes to pursue studies in theatre in the future.

**Andrew Zucca** (Domenic Cozza) is performing in his fifth show at John Carroll University. He is graduating this May with a degree in Communications. Previous performance include Philip Lombard in *Ten Little Indians*, Ferris Layman in *The Diviners*, and his favorite role of John Proctor in *The Crucible*.



## PRODUCTION STAFF

Director.....**James F. Beck\***  
Assistant Director.....**Patrick J. Scullin\***  
Stage Manager.....**James E. Parker\***  
Assistant Stage Manager.....**Melissa Tilk**  
Scenic and Lighting Designer.....**James F. Beck\***  
Costume Designer.....**Mark Kobak**  
Assistant Costume Designer.....**Naima Hadden**  
Hairstylist.....**Tony Marotta**  
Sound Design.....**Fred Dolan**  
Light Board Operator.....**Tim Miller**  
Sound Board Operator.....**Joseph Guay\***  
Running Crew.....**Fred Bolden, Megan Marrie,**  
.....**Karen Cullen**  
Construction Crew.....**Stephen J. Fink\*,**  
.....**Neil Ryan,**  
.....**Dave Kaleal\*, Andrew Zucca\*,**  
.....**Doug Bruce, Patrick Scullin,**  
.....**and class members of CO 275**  
Dressers.....**Bethany Wiles, Neil Ryan,**  
.....**Rebecca Biddiscombe, Katie Brown,**  
.....**and Susan Schmitz**  
Publicity.....**Mark Walsh**  
Prop Mistress.....**Melissa Tilk**  
Prop Crew.....**Chris Dashner, Mike Brunswick**  
.....**Scott Rukavina, Michele Dawson**  
Master Electrician.....**James E. Parker\***  
Light Crew.....**James E. Parker\*, Tim Miller**  
.....**Jim Sislo, Julianne Pezzi,**  
.....**and class members of CO 275**  
Box Office.....**Robert Bucha, Karen Gygli\***  
Program.....**Kate Filiatraut\*,**  
.....**and Melissa Tilk**  
Graphic.....**John Yasenosky**



# WHO'S WHO IN THE PRODUCTION STAFF

**Nancy Kiefer** (Playwright) has written many plays, including *Gwen and Gwen*, *Dryope and Iole*, *Head of a Blue-Eyed Man*, *The Eighth Order* (which was world premiered at JCU in 1991), *The Night and The Morning*, *Radiant Boys*, *Loans*, *Urban Myths*, and *Talking Minks*. Her plays have been produced in many theatres in her native Ohio as well as in Boston and New York City, off-off and off-Broadway.

**James F. Beck** (Director/Scene and Lighting Designer) received his B.A. from Hiram College and his Master of Fine Arts in Production Design and Technology from Ohio University. He pursued a PhD in Theatre History at the University of Missouri where, upon completion of his coursework, he joined the Faculty as Designer/Technical Director. Jim currently serves as both Faculty Member and Technical Director at John Carroll University. Since coming to JCU three years ago, Jim has directed and designed *The Crucible* and *Baby*, and designed the sets for *Ten Little Indians*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Eighth Order*, *The Diviners*, *The Nerd* and *Holiday*. He also designed three plays in a joint venture with the Misery Loves Company at JCU.

**Patrick J. Scullin** (Assistant Director) is a senior Communications major. Patrick spent most of his life in the suburbs of Detroit until he came to Cleveland for college. Pat has worked in all aspects of the theatre including his most recent endeavor last Fall, directing Harvey Fierstein's *On Tidy Endings* in the Marinello Little Theatre. Pat was also seen on the JCU stage as Peter Quince in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Patrick is also active in the *Carroll News*.

**James E. Parker** (Stage Manager) has designed lighting for *Camille*, *On Tidy Endings*, *Ten Little Indians*, and *Grandma Duck is Dead*. He directed *The Diviners* last Spring. In addition, he has been stage manager for numerous shows at John Carroll.

**Melissa A. Tilk** (Assistant Stage Manager) is a freshman Communications and Business double major from Atlanta, GA. She got her start in theatre working wardrobe for *Ten Little Indians* this past Fall. Then, she was the costume designer for *Grandma Duck is Dead*. Melissa is also Campus Life for the *Carroll News*.

**Mark Kobak** (Costume Designer) graduated from Baldwin-Wallace with a B.A. in theatre where he concentrated in set and costume design. Since then Mark has designed sets at Greater Miami Opera, Florida, and Clague Playhouse. He has also designed costumes for Misery Love Company and B-W. Mark does wardrobe for Great Lakes Theatre Festival, Cleveland Opera, and Playhouse Square.

**Naima-Leone Hadden** (Assistant Costume Designer) is a 1988 Baldwin-Wallace graduate where she was a costume shop foreman and a designer. She has since worked for Great Lakes Theatre Festival, Playhouse Square, Cleveland Opera, and has designed for many community theatres.

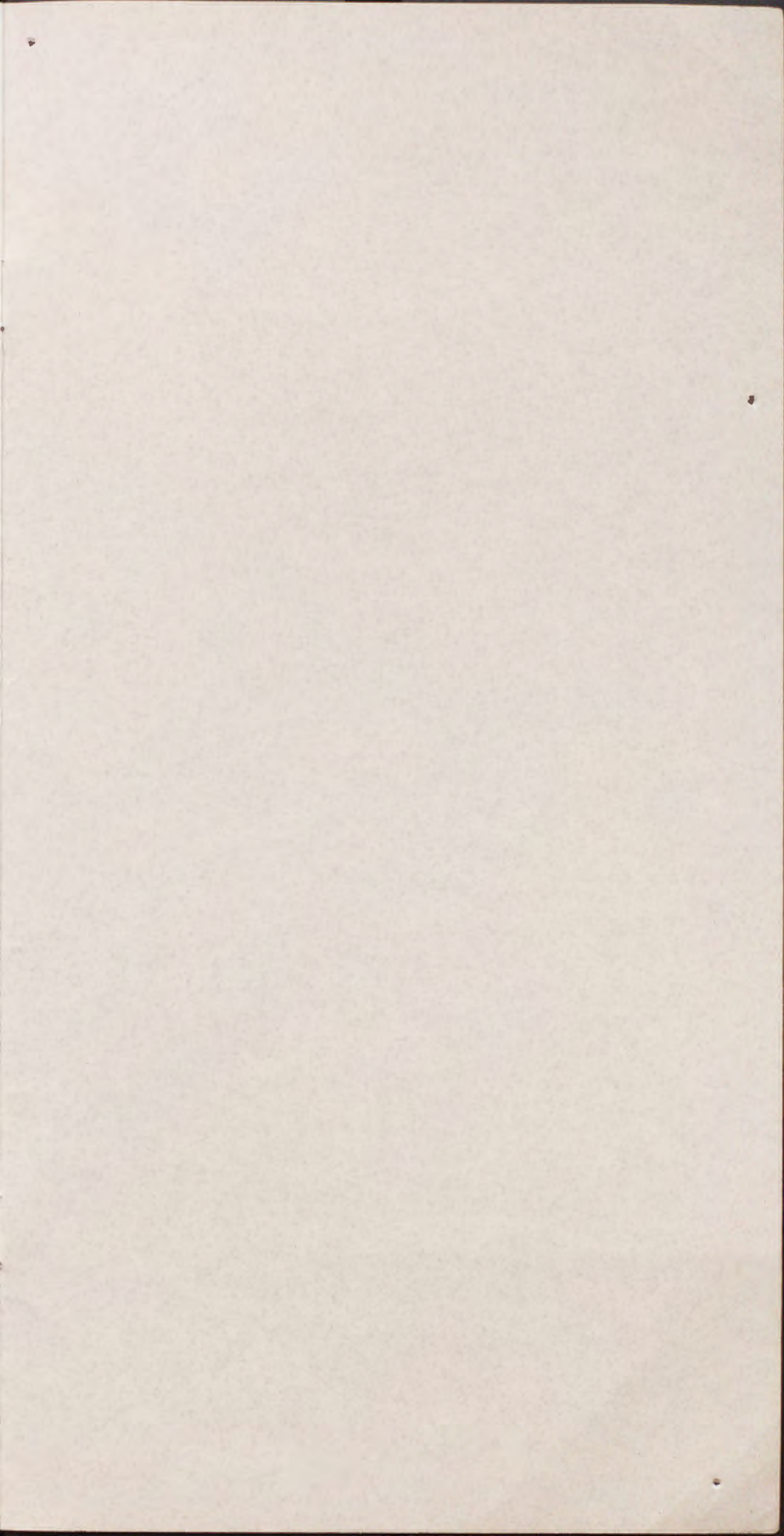
## \* ALPHA PSI OMEGA

Alpha Psi Omega (ΑΨΩ) is the national theatre honorary fraternity. Members of Alpha Psi Omega are committed to the production of quality collegiate theatre throughout the United States of America. The Mu Theta cast of Alpha Psi Omega is chartered at John Carroll University, and its members serve the local communities in their production of theatre. Induction eligibility into the fraternity is determined by participation in theatre. If you have any questions about Alpha Psi Omega, call 397-4428.

## PLEASE NOTE

We ask that patrons refrain from eating, drinking, or smoking in Kulas Auditorium. Taking flash pictures during the production is distracting and potentially dangerous to the actors, as it may disorient them--please wait until after the performance.





## SPECIAL THANKS

Dallas and Eleanor Culp  
Dave Kaleal  
Antiques in the Bank  
Mark Walsh  
Kathy Dolan  
Dr. Jacqueline Schmidt  
Dr. Marianne Salcetti and the Carroll News  
Dr. Alan Stephenson  
The Beck Center  
Cleveland Playhouse  
Mr. and Mrs. John Coppers  
Dr. Karen Gygli  
Louis Pitschmann  
Gunner Kiefer

**Thank You...**  
**We appreciate**  
**your continued**  
**support of the**  
**John Carroll**  
**University theatre**  
**program.**